

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Lansing, MI

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

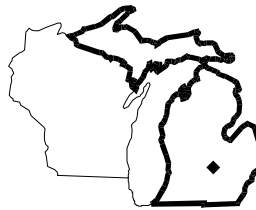
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Lansing for a Brownfields Pilot. Lansing, the capital of Michigan, began as a lumbering town in the early 1800s. In the 1890s, the city began developing its industrial base with the founding of Oldsmobile. The city became the world's forging center and established a strong white-collar job base. Currently, Lansing is home to a number of insurance, utility, and banking headquarters; several trade associations and utilities; a number of cultural resources such as the Michigan Historical Museum; several educational institutions; and General Motors. At present, the Lansing economy is primarily based on the operations of the State of Michigan agencies, General Motors, Michigan State University, and their associated businesses.

Despite the fact the city is one of the cultural and academic centers of the state, Lansing has not grown substantially in the last 10 years, while the surrounding areas of East Lansing and Delta Township have increased substantially in population base and housing. Manufacturing growth in the city has been slow, and the nature of the commercial sector has changed. Lansing has identified approximately 100 potential brownfield properties located throughout the city that, when revitalized, will help reverse the city's decline.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Lansing, MI

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The City of Lansing is focusing on brownfields properties located throughout the city.

Contacts:

City of Lansing
(517) 483-4594

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 5
(312) 353-3161

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

The city has a median household income of \$26,398, 15 percent below the state as a whole; and 19 percent of the population lives below poverty level, a rate which is 6 percent higher than the state's overall rate. In 1997, two tax-free Renaissance Zones were created in Lansing, which will be in place for a 12-year period, and the entire city is designated as a redevelopment area under the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Plan. This offers tax incentives to prospective purchasers and redevelopers of brownfield properties.

OBJECTIVES

Lansing's objective is to encourage the cleanup and redevelopment of the city's brownfields and discourage the development of outlying greenfields, as well as reverse urban flight. The city hopes to spur its rebirth as a key manufacturing center in Michigan through the revitalization of its brownfield properties, including sites surrounding a new \$500 million manufacturing facility General Motors has committed to build. The Pilot will support the city's goals through environmental assessments and outreach activities for priority brownfields.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Completing an inventory and a limited economic analysis of brownfield properties and prioritizing sites that will have the highest economic and social value if redeveloped;
- Setting up an inventory of brownfield properties on a web site;
- Conducting outreach to affected stakeholders and involving the Greater Neighborhood Council, which represents more than 70 neighborhood-based groups, in outreach efforts; and
- Conducting environmental site assessments on the highest-priority brownfields properties.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.